

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A toaster comprising: a case having lateral walls that constitute the outer cover of said toaster, said case containing a frame forming a toasting chamber having an opening at an upper part of said case and an opening at a lower part of said case; a base supporting said case, removably connectable to said case, and facing the opening at the lower part of said case; and heating means for said chamber having heating elements situated in proximity to said chamber and connected to a device that includes an electric circuit for supplying electric power and for controlling said heating elements, wherein said base is completely removable from said case, and said base and said case have respective elements that interact with one another when said case is disposed on said base, such that withdrawal of said case from said base suppresses the interaction to prevent the supply of electric power to said heating elements, ~~and further wherein said case has a plurality of feet that permit said case to rest on a work surface when said base has been removed for cleaning.~~

2. (Original) The toaster of claim 1, wherein said base has a hollow zone for collecting crumbs, said zone being located directly beneath said toasting chamber when said case is mounted on said base.

3. (Original) The toaster of claim 1, further comprising a vertically movable bread rack for supporting bread in said toasting chamber, and wherein said element in said case can occupy two positions depending on whether said case is disposed or not on said base, one of said positions being located in the path of travel of said bread rack or of a piece that is movable with said bread rack, while preventing said bread rack or said piece from reaching the lower part of said toaster when said case is not properly connected to said base.

4. (Original) The toaster of claim 1, wherein said element in said base is a finger and said element in said case is an electric switch in said electric circuit for supplying current to said heating elements.

5. (Original) The toaster of claim 4, wherein said switch comprise a contact that opens said circuit for supplying current for said heating elements when said base is separated from said case.

6. (Original) The toaster of claim 5, wherein said base has an electric connector connected to a plug for connection to electric power means, said connector cooperating, when said case is disposed on said base, with a complementary part that is disposed on said frame or said case of said toaster and that is electrically connected to said heating elements.

7. (Original) The toaster of claim 6, wherein said circuit for supplying power to said heating elements has an electric trigger locking said case to said base when said heating elements are being supplied with power.

8. (Original) The toaster of claim 1, wherein said base has an electric connector connected to a plug for connection to electric power means, said connector cooperating, when said case is disposed on said base, with a complementary part that is disposed on said frame or said case of said toaster and that is electrically connected to said heating elements.

9. (Original) The toaster of claim 1, wherein said circuit for supplying power to said heating elements has an electric trigger locking said case to said base when said heating elements are being supplied with power.

10. (Previously presented) The toaster of claim 1, wherein said case rests on said base when said base is connected to said case.

11. (Previously presented) The toaster of claim 10, wherein said case and said base are constructed to allow said base to be connected to said case by a pivoting movement of said case relative to said base.

12. (Previously presented) A toaster comprising: a case having lateral walls that constitute the outer cover of said toaster, said case containing a frame forming a toasting chamber having an opening at an upper part of said case and an opening at a lower part of said case; a base supporting said case, removably connectable to said case, and facing the opening at the lower part of said case, said base having a plurality of feet; and heating means for said chamber having heating elements situated in proximity to said chamber and connected to a device that includes an electric circuit for supplying electric power and for controlling said heating elements, wherein said base is completely removable from said case, and said base and said case have respective elements that interact with one another when said case is disposed on said base, such that withdrawal of said case from said base suppresses the

interaction to prevent the supply of electric power to said heating elements.

13. (Previously presented) The toaster of claim 12, wherein said case has a plurality of feet that permit said case to rest on a work surface when said base has been removed for cleaning.

14. (Canceled)

15. (New) The toaster of claim 1, wherein said case has a plurality of feet that permit said case to rest on a work surface when said base has been removed for cleaning.

16. (New) The toaster of claim 1, wherein said case is constructed for permitting access, through the opening at said lower part of said case, to a lower part of said toasting chamber when said base is removed from said case.

17. (New) The toaster of claim 1, wherein said base is constructed for supporting said toaster on a surface and for providing thermal insulation for said toaster when said case is supported by said base.

18. (New) The toaster of claim 1, wherein said case and said base are constructed to allow said base to be connected to said case by only a pivoting movement of said case relative to said base.

19. (New) The toaster of claim 1, further comprising means for latching or locking said case to said base in a removable manner, said means including an unlocking button that is operable to permit said case to be removed from said base.